That the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी (पश्चिम बंगाल): सर, अभी रेल बिल पास हो गया, परेल निरसन बिल पास हो गया, लेकिन रेलवे केटरिंग तो बंद नहीं हुई है। हम खाना तो खाएंगे? आधा घंटे के लिए हाउस adjourn कर दें।

श्री उपसभापति: अभी Labour Minister का स्टेटमेंट है।

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: हमें थोड़ा सा खाना तो खा लेने दीजिए। आधा घंटे के लिए adjourn कर दीजिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I now adjourn the House till 2.15 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fifty minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at sixteen minutes past two of the clock.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Launching of an unemployment benefit scheme for workers from the new financial year

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): Sir, I am happy to announce to the House that in pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government and under the guidance of the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, and the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has taken a momentous decision to implement a highly labour-friendly Scheme called the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana. This Scheme shall be implemented by the Employees State Insurance Corporation, a statutory organization under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

We often come across situations where industrial units and other establishments are closed down for a variety of reasons, beyond the control of the workers. During such periods of unemployment, and till they are able to find alternative employment, the economic and social condition of

the workers and their families becomes highly vulnerable. The absence of a safety net to deal with such situations leads to frustration and impoverishment of the workers.

Insured persons covered by the Employees State Insurance Corporation, and losing employment after 1st April, 2005, on account of closure of factories or establishments, retrenchment, or permanent invalidity arising out of non-employment injury, shall be covered under this scheme. The insured workers who lose employment after having contributed to the ESI scheme for five or more years shall be entitled to an Unemployment Allowance in cash, which would be equivalent to about 50 per cent. of their wages, for a maximum of six months.

In addition, the insured persons in receipt of Unemployment Allowance and their families shall also be eligible to receive medical care, as available in the ESI dispensaries and the ESI Hospitals.

This scheme which will come into force from 1st April, 2005 will provide the much needed social security cover for about eight million employees who are insured with the Employees State Insurance Corporation. The medical benefit will extend to 30 million family members of the insured workers.

The Employees State Insurance Corporation proposes to meet the expenditure of the Scheme out of its existing resources without levying any additional burden either on the employees or on the employers. Rs. 300 crores are being provided for in the Rules under the ESI Act for this purpose.

Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is for the first time that an unemployment-related benefit scheme is being launched in the country for our brethren workers, and I am sure that all categories of workers and their employers in the country would welcome this important welfare measure.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (उत्तरांचल): आदरणीय उपसभापति जी। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Clarifications will be taken up on some other day.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: उपसभापति जी। मैं वही कहने लगी थी कि सदन की परम्परा है कि स्टेटमेंट पर क्लेरिफिकेशन्स होती हैं। तो हम क्लेरिफिकेशन के लिए कोई और दिन तय कर लें?...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will fix up the date.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL)—2005-2006

डा॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, मैं आपका आभारी हूं कि आपने मुझे वर्ष 2005-2006 के लिए प्रस्तुत बजट पर टिप्पणी करने का अवसर दिया है। सबसे पहले तो मैं वित्त मंत्री जी की एक बात की बहुत तारीफ करूंगा कि वे बहुत अच्छे मार्केटिंग आफीसर साबित हुए हैं।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (उत्तरांचल): वित्त मंत्री जी तो हैं नहीं।

डा॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी: उनके प्रतिनिधि बैठे हैं। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी (पश्चिम बंगाल): सर, क्या ऐसा बोलना चाहिए इस हाऊस में फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर के लिए,* ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं, नहीं। वह निकाल दिया है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेश पचौरी): सर, मैं सम्मानित सदस्य को बताना चाहता हूं कि माननीय मंत्री जी लोक सभा में हैं। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

डा॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी (उत्तर प्रदेश): मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है।

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: लेकिन* का आप जिक्र न करें। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not in good taste... *(Interruptions)*... That is not in good taste... *(Interruptions)*...

डा॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी: मुझे बहुत प्रसन्नता है कि आप वित्त मंत्री जी का बचाव कर रहे हैं। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: नहीं, बचाव का नहीं है। It is a question of the dignity of the House ...*(Interruptions)*... I don't want it to be a part of the proceedings which is a reflection on the other House... (*Interruptions)*...

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*Not recorded.